

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

S E C R E T STATE 003157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AD

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: REPORT
NUMBER 8

REF: STATE 001370

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

UPDATE ON REFERENCED SUBJECT FOLLOWS:

A. FORCES OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF
ANGOLA (MPLA) HAVE CAPTURED CARMONA, WHICH WAS THE SECOND
LARGEST OPERATIONAL BASE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE
LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (FNLA). MPLA FORCES ARE ALSO MAKING
STEADY PROGRESS IN THEIR ADVANCE ON AMBRIZ, THE LOCATION
OF FNLA HEADQUARTERS. ON THE EASTERN FRONT, HEAVY

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FIGHTING CONTINUES BETWEEN THE MPLA AND THE NATIONAL UNION

FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA). NO DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

B. NIGERIA REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE MPLA. THE EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS OBSOLETE, INCLUDES MIG-17 AIRCRAFT, ARMORED CARS, AND ARTILLERY PIECES. NO NIGERIAN PERSONNEL WILL BE SENT TO

ANGOLA. ANY TRAINING REQUIRED WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY CUBAN AND SOVIET PERSONNEL IN ANGOLA. THE NIGERIAN EQUIPMENT IS REPORTEDLY IN POOR CONDITION AND WILL BE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL USE TO THE MPLA.

C. ON THE NIGHT OF 31 DECEMBER, THE FNLA AMBUSHED A MPLA CONVOY NORTHEAST OF LUANDA. IT IS BELIEVED THAT CUBANS WERE AMONG THE MPLA TROOPS.

D. CUBA REPORTEDLY HAS INSTALLED A NEW RADAR SYSTEM AROUND LUANDA. KISSINGER

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